

## December 21 - 27, 2014

### Kentucky Waterfowl Ground Counts

Information from the below counts suggest duck and goose numbers remained basically unchanged from previous surveys. No large scale weather events have occurred to act as a catalyst and push new birds into the state. Weather this week is predicted to be more of the same with a weak cold front to move through over the New Year holiday. It is doubtful this front will be of sufficient magnitude to move birds holding on the confluences of the Illinois/Mississippi and Missouri/Mississippi rivers southward. Many regions of the state could still use some substantial rains to recharge and/or maintain natural wetlands and moist soil units.

Hunting was reported to be only fair to poor across much of the state for ducks and Canada geese. Bird movement has become stale with most staying put on refuge areas during shooting hours. Hunting is expected to continue to be relatively slow through the end of the year unless a major weather system occurs to push new birds into the state.

Wishing everyone a Happy New Year and may the birds cover your up in the new year ahead.

Location	Number	Species Composition	Comments
Ballard WMA	43,000 ducks	92% mallard, 5% gadwall, 3% other dabblers and divers.	Most birds remain using MSUs in buck brush in Front Slough, Mitchell and New Hole. OH River is dropping so some water is receding into the ground. More water was added to Mitchell to provide new moist soil plants.
Barren River Lake	30 ducks	50% divers (100% mergansers) 50% dabblers all mallards.	Very dry again Peters Creek-70% full, Calvert Springs 10-20% full.
Birdsville Island	No Count this week		
Kentucky/Barkley Lakes	No Count this week		
Duck Island	2,800 ducks	80% mallard, 15% scaup, remainder mix of dabblers	Water levels within center impoundment near ideal. Dry fall has allowed us to bring water up slowly. Impoundment is about 80% water coverage where MSU food resources are good.

<b>Location</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Species Composition</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Boatwright WMA	22,000 ducks	Mostly mallards	Some low water has been added to flood MSUs from the last rain.
Doug Travis WMA	3,750 ducks	90% mallards, 10% mixed dabblers and ring-necked ducks.	Need rain & river to flood more area. Ducks in MSU on refuge.
Peabody WMA	1,530 ducks 166 CG 6 WFG	95% mallards	MSUs remain low. Region could use a good rain.
Sloughs WMA	14,220 ducks 105 CG 4,500 WFG 10,250 SG 111 swans	85-90% mallard, remainder a mix of gadwall, wigeon, black duck, pintail, shoveler and ring-necked duck	Most ducks and WF geese concentrated on refuge.
Yellowbank WMA	900 ducks	90% mallard, gadwall, wood duck and black duck	Most MSU's are at 75% water capacity
Blue Grass Army Depot (all lakes and ponds)	200 ducks 10 CG	50% diving ducks (Unknown species) 50% dabblers (55% mallard, 30% gadwall, 15% black duck)	Diving ducks on Lake Vega, dabbling ducks on MSUs
Herrington Lake	1 duck	merganser	Lake open, normal pool
Taylorsville Lake	21 ducks 50 CG	15 mallard, 6 shoveler. All birds on nearby ponds	MSUs partially flooded.
Cedar Cr./Dix R. WMA	No Count This week		
Green River WMA	No Count This week		